

No. 16. Cotton produced by—

Mishima Okataro,
Oki-mura, Kuboya-gori,
Bitchiu, Okayama-ken.

Annual crop, about 1,950 kin = 2,583.8865 pounds.

Market price, $9\frac{1}{2}$ sen per 1 kin = 1.32507 pounds.

No. 17. Cotton produced by—

Kami-mura Kametaro,
Imatsu-mura, Chinka-gori,
Suwo, Yamaguchi-ken.

Annual crop, about 1,725 kin = 2,285.74575 pounds.

Market price, 8.7 sen per 1 kin = 1.32507 pounds.

No. 18. Cotton produced by—

Uramoto Joichiro,
Naka-mura, Amakusa-gori,
Higo, Kumamoto-ken.

Annual crop, about 2,275 kin = 3,014.53425 pounds.

Market price, $8\frac{3}{8}$ sen per 1 kin = 1.32507 pounds.

 BRIEF ACCOUNT OF COTTON HUSBANDRY IN JAPAN.

Cotton is produced along the coasts, and where there are sandy soils in the warm parts of so-called districts Kinai, Kanto, Chiugoku, and Kinshiu; but in the most northeastern parts of so-called districts Tô-oku and Hokuriku, where frost visits very early, the soil is unsuitable for the cultivation of cotton, so that it is very rarely cultivated.

Although the era of the cultivation of cotton in the empire is yet uncertain, as there are various opinions, it is certain that the mode of the cultivation in western provinces was introduced from Kinai, and that the seeds grown in eastern provinces were brought from the province of Mikawa. It seems, however, that the modes of all the provinces westward from Kinai would have been developed in a very accurate manner and that the general objects turned to obtain more and more good crop. So it is; in the province of Settsu the crop is largest and could never be surpassed by that of all the other provinces throughout the empire, though the expenditure for the cultivation in that province is nearly two times that of another province where the expenditure is smallest, but as the staples are rather short and hard it is not suitable for the consumer for both spinning very fine yarns and weaving fine and delicate goods. In recent years cotton yarns are imported on a large scale, and on account of fine yarn being easily got, the home-produced cotton must, it seems, be spun into coarse counts for warp and used also for stuffing. Taking this as a cause, it became finally the general custom to prefer a cotton-plant which produces a larger amount of cotton wool to all the other sorts, whether the staple is long or short

and hard or soft. Therefore, even in the provinces of Owari and Mikawa, the seed of western provinces has been taken and cultivated, and the natural, long and soft stapled wool could be very rarely seen in the markets. Yet in the provinces of Hitachi and Shimatsuke, &c., where fine cotton goods are manufactured, the sort of cotton-plant producing long, soft, and strong stapled wool has long been cultivated after the old custom, but, unfortunately, as the interests for planters were gradually decreased on account of the lowering price of cotton of that sort, the custom of cultivating with the seeds of western province after the mode of cultivation in that part is increasing year by year.

Cotton-plants have different names in different provinces, so that it is difficult to distinguish them readily one from another, but it is believed that there are but three sorts, the so-called Kinai, Kanto, and Ainoko. The Kanto produces long, soft, and strong stapled wool ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length), of glossy appearance, and contains 5 to 7 seeds in each cell, the size of which is large with less wool; and 3.2507 ounces of the seed cotton give .97521 ounce of ginned cotton. On the contrary, Kinai has hard and short stapled wool ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length), of larger diameter and rather destitute of glossiness, and contains 8 to 11 seeds in each cell, of smaller size and covered with more wool, and 3.2507 ounces of the seed cotton yield 1.23526 ounces to 1.46281 ounces of ginned cotton. Ainoko is the result of a reciprocal acclimatization, viz, Kanto seeds (that is the seed of eastern part) being grown in Kinai district (middle part), and Kinai seeds in Kanto district, or Kinai seeds in Kiushiu (southwestern part), and Kiushiu seeds in Kinai; the properties, qualities, and lengths of the stapled wool of the former are intermediate between those of the two preceding, and those of the latter intergrade between those of the native cottons of Kinai and Kiushiu.

The mode of cultivation and manures are various according to both the soils and the climates, and also to the customs of every district. In Kinai district and the provinces of Owari, Mikawa, &c., cotton-planters like to have the cotton-plants rather short and thin instead of growing them tall and large, the rootlets spreading out fully, and in Kanto and some other districts they like to have the trunks of the plants grow tall and large, the primary root descending deeply in the ground; cultivators generally dislike the latter plan, and there is no doubt that such plants by no means give valuable returns. Agreeably to these views, it is thought that the fact that the cotton crop in Kanto could not be equal to that in Kinai is to some extent due to the mode of cultivation, which, in Kanto, has not attained great excellence; there is also the difference of the seeds.

Cottons to be presented ought to be collected for the purpose in cotton-producing districts, but in order to avoid losing time those specimens already collected from among the exhibits at the competitive exhibition of cotton and sugar, held at Osaka in last year (1880), are sent; therefore, the glossiness of the cotton-wool may be rather defective in comparison with that of the new crop.